

New Generating Facility for Dauphin Co.

PP&L, Met Ed Plan Joint Project

Two electric utility companies, PP&L and Metropolitan Edison, yesterday announced plans for a pumped storage hydroelectric project in Dauphin County.

A preliminary application, filed with the Federal Power Commission (FPC), stated the project would be built on Stony Creek in Middle Paxton and East Hanover Twps.

The joint announcement was made by Austin Gavin, executive vice president of PP&L, and Frederic Cox, president of Met Ed.

They said preliminary soil tests, core borings, seismic soundings and topographical surveys taken over the past several years by independent consultants have led them to "consider the project to be feasible in every respect."

In preparation for in-depth studies, the companies announced they have retained ad-

ditional consultants, including environmental specialists, to conduct further research and prepare recommendations.

Spokesmen said the recreation department of Harza Engineering Co. of Chicago was retained to assist in the appraisal of whether recreational facilities can be compatible with the project.

The companies explained the Stony Creek facility would be a

significant factor in maintaining an adequate and reliable supply of power in the years ahead.

Spokesmen said as much as 1.5 million kilowatts of power could be produced at the plant, which would cost at least \$200 million.

They said earliest date of completion would be 1980.

Pumped storage operation consists of pumping a large quantity of water to a high point using electricity when customer needs are lowest,

storing it and then returning it downhill to generate electricity when customers are registering a peak demand.

Spokesmen said the project would be carefully designed to minimize intrusion on the landscape, to have minimum ad-

verse effects upon the area and to result in an over-all benefit to the environment.

The project area is located 10 miles east of Dauphin Borough within a 1,700-acre tract obtained from the State Game Commission in an exchange of land about three years ago.

Company spokesmen said interested parties may submit comments when and if the tests authorized by the preliminary permit lead the companies to apply for an FPC license for construction.